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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
3 April 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Situation Report on the Introduction of Czech Arms into Bolivia

1. The Bureau of Intelligence and Research of State Department on 19 March 1963 published a paper entitled "The Internal Security Capability in Bolivia and Reports of Czech Arms There." The portions referring to Czech arms were based largely upon rumors of such activity rather than upon hard intelligence.

2. Prior to 2 April 1963, neither DBI nor DDP reported Czech arms being imported into Bolivia over the past half year. The only evidence on the subject known to CIA had been a report that during a visit to Bolivia on 28-29 April 1962, Czech Education Minister Frantisek Kahuda made gifts of Czech automatic weapons to a number of Bolivians presumably as samples of what Czechoslovakia could provide. During the past year the US army attaché has reported that Czech arms clandestinely were entering Bolivia; these reports were based on rumors.

3. The first evidence of actual importation of Czech arms to Bolivia became known to CIA Headquarters analysts on 3 April. However, according to a [REDACTED] memorandum of 11 March to the US ambassador, La Paz, the Czech commercial attaché in La Paz reportedly delivered four boxes of arms containing six machine pistols each to three rural peasant leaders of a Bolivian mining district on 5 March. The peasant leaders reportedly plan to establish a center of guerrilla activity there.

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5. This memorandum has been coordinated with ODP and with ONE.

Attachment

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